

Sulphur Springs

By Carl Mellor

In late July, 1850, an exploring party from Salt Lake City, consisting of Canute Peterson, David Savage, Charles Hopkins, Henry Royle, William S. Empey, William S. Wadsworth and Mr. Lemmon, a surveyor, arrived a a site on the American Fork Creek where they anticipated staking claims.

A group of settlers led by Washburn Chipman and Arsa Adams were already camped in the area, and claimed water and land rights to the vicinity.

The discouraged explorers returned to the site of any ancient Indian encampment just west of the present Lehi Rodeo Grounds. They named the small stream, “Dry CreeK”.

The following day the men explored the area west to the Jordan River and south to Utah Lake. Much sagebrush and grass wood were evident, but they also found considerable bunch grass, which made an excellent animal fodder.

Approximately one mile north on the lake and a mile east of the river the men found a spring of clear though acid-tasting water with sufficient grazing ground to support a settlement. This site which they called “Sulphur Springs” was then surveyed by Lemmon. The group returned to Salt Lake City and filed on the land.

By late November, 1851, thirteen log cabins with sod roofs had been arranged into a partial fort surrounding Sulphur Springs. Fifty two persons spent the winter there.